

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7, and 11-12 were indicated as having allowable subject matter but were objected to as depending from rejected claims.

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious with references JP 07179717A (Abstract) is combined with Jackson et al. (U.S. 6,730,401). This rejection is respectfully traversed below and reconsideration is requested.

The JP reference discloses a single layer thermoplastic composition which can be made into pipe. Applicants' claimed pipe is a multilayer pipe made from multiple layers of thermoplastic polymers. The JP reference uses multiple polymers but they are blended together to give a single composition. The polymers of the JP reference pipe are not in distinct layers as is the case with Applicants' pipe. The JP reference has no teaching which would suggest a multilayer pipe as is in the present claims.

The Jackson et al. reference teaches making multilayer sheets with electrostatic dissipative properties for packaging electronics. Jackson et al. does not teach a pipe, either single layer or multilayer pipes. The thermoplastic compositions of both the JP reference and Jackson et al. references are very different from those taught by the present application.

The multilayer pipe recited in the present application must meet very stringent requirements to have long service time in plumbing applications. Requirements such as burst strength, long term hydrostatic strength, and high tensile strength to avoid creep, are necessary for a successful pipe to transport water.

One skilled in the art of making pipes would not look to a reference on making electrostatic dissipative sheets, as in Jackson et al. The combined teachings of the JP reference and Jackson et al. do not teach or suggest the multilayer pipe as claimed by Applicants. It is submitted that Applicants' claims are unobvious over the combined teachings of the JP reference

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and Jackson et al. The rejection of claims 1-3, 5-6, and 8-10 have been traversed and the Examiner is hereby requested to reconsider and allow the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: OCT. 19, 2005
200TR388AAF.doc